

PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS. YEAR 1937.

Preliminary Report of the Government Statist on Vital Statistics for the year 1937. The particulars for 1937 are subject to slight revision when finally checked. 1936 particulars are given in parentheses. A detailed analysis of the Statistics will be given when the final summary is published in the Statistical Register.

I. POPULATION. 589,566 (587,856).

The population of the State on 30th September 1937 was 589,566 (587,856) increase 1,710.

Natural Increase Year 1937 - 3,788 (3,447) increase 291.

Migration - Loss for 9 months to 30th September 1937 - 2,416 (1,028), December Quarter not yet being available.

II. MARRIAGES. 5,340 (5,182).

NUMBER CELEBRATED. 5,340 (5,182) increase 158 on the record of the previous year; making an increase of 2,271 during the last 6 years. The rate per 1,000 of mean population was 9.06 (8.82), being the highest rate since 1913, except for 1920 which was abnormal-due to the marriages of returned soldiers.

OFFICIATING MINISTERS &C. - See Bulletin No. 3.

III. BIRTHS. 8,985 (8,911).

The number of Births registered had fallen steadily from 11,492 in 1927 to 8,521 in 1932. The totals for subsequent years have been irregular, that for 1937 being 8,985 (8,911), an increase of 74 on 1936 and of 464 on 1932, but still over 2,600 below the annual average of the years 1910-29, and the crude birth rate 15.25 (15.17) is the lowest except for four recent years.

SEXES. Males 4,611 (4,509), Females 4,374 (4,402) representing 105.42 (102.43) males to every 100 females.

EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS. 312 (272), the rate being equivalent to 3.47 (3.05) per 100 births. LEGITIMATIONS 28 (34). ADOPTIONS 122 (99).

PLURAL BIRTHS. Twins 81 (79) sets, Triplets 2 (-).

IV. DEATHS. 5,247 (5,464).

During the year 5,247 (5,464) deaths were registered, a decrease of 217 on the previous year. Rates per 1,000 of the mean population were 8.91 (9.30). Commencing with 1922 there had been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933, when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. The rates for the last 4 years have been higher again, though irregular.

SEXES. Males 2,823 (2,961), females 2,424 (2,503).

V. INFANTILE DEATHS. 297 (277).

There was an increase of 20 in the number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, the numbers being 297 (277). The death rate for 1936 of 31.09 had been just a little in excess of the world record of 30.96 for New Zealand. The 1937 rate increased to 33.05 which is the lowest S. A. rate except for 1936 and 1933. The infantile death rate in this State is only about half the rate 20 years ago, and one third of the rate around 1900.

V. INFANTILE DEATHS (continued).

Under 1 week the deaths were 171 (153), 1 week and under 1 month 42 (32), 1-5 months 42 (50), 6-11 months 42 (42).

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH - Premature birth 111 (89); congenital malformations 35 (41); injury at birth 28 (26); congen. debility 16 (22); other disease of Infancy 22 (22); diarrhoea & enteritis 15 (11); pneumonia 25 (27); whooping cough 4 (3).

The important subject of infantile mortality allied with the cognate subject of maternal mortality will be examined in more detail when the final summary is published.

VI. CAUSES OF DEATH.

Principal causes of death and rates per 10,000 of mean population.

Disease	PERSONS		RATES	
	1937	1936	1937	1936
Diseases of the heart	1,039	1,101	17.64	18.74
Cancer & other malignant tumors	725	740	12.31	12.60
Tuberculosis (all forms)	256	235	4.35	4.00
Cerebral haemorrhage, softening, &c.	493	527	8.37	8.97
Pneumonia; Lobar-, Broncho-, &c.	276	343	4.69	5.84
Bronchitis (all forms)	57	74	.97	1.26
Other diseases of resp. system	121	125	2.05	2.12
Nephritis-Acute and chronic	274	252	4.65	4.29
Diabetes mellitus	116	110	1.97	1.87
Puerperal causes	46	53	.78	.89
Congen. debility, malformations, &c.	223	216	3.79	3.67
Senility	286	318	4.85	5.41
Suicides	56	69	.95	1.17
Violent deaths (ex. suicides)	319	270	5.42	4.59
Diarrhoea and enteritis	48	40	.81	.68
Whooping Cough	5	9	.08	.15
Diphtheria and croup	27	30	.46	.51
Influenza	9	17	.15	.29
Typhoid Fever	4	4	.07	.07
Appendicitis	52	35	.88	.60
Hernia, intestinal obstruction	61	52	1.03	.89
Cirrhosis of liver	22	15	.37	.25
Tetanus	7	11	.12	.19
All other	725	818	12.31	13.95
Total	5,247	5,464	89.07	93.00

Decreases are noted for Diseases of the Heart 1,039 (1,101), Cancer 725 (740) - see Remarks next page -, Cerebral Haemorrhage &c. 493 (527), Pneumonia 276 (343), Puerperal causes 46 (53), Leucaemia and Aleucaemia 20 (29), Tetanus 7 (11).

Increases are noted for Tuberculosis 256 (235), Nephritis 274 (252), Diarrhoea and Enteritis 48 (40), Appendicitis 52 (35), Acute Poliomyelitis 3 (-).

VII. EXTERNAL VIOLENCE.

There were 47 more accidental &c. deaths, 13 less suicides and 2 more homicides in 1937 than in 1936. Total accidental &c. deaths were 311 (264), chief causes being :- Falls 62 (50), automobiles 103 (76), burns 18 (14), Drowning 40 (35), railways and tramways 21 (23), fire-arms 6 (10).

VIII. TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER, HEART DISEASES AND NEPHRITIS.

Except for irregular movements since 1930, the rate per 10,000 of mean population for tuberculosis has been showing a heavy continuous fall, the rate for 1937 being less than half of the rate 20 years ago. Cancer had been showing a fairly continuous rise, but during the last few years the rate has been fluctuating, that for 1937 showing a decrease on the high rate of 1936. The increase in latter years is not so serious as it would appear from the crude death rate, for most cancer deaths are of older persons, and these now constitute a much larger proportion of the population.

Period	Tuberculosis		Cancer		Heart		Nephritis	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	382	7.55	476	9.41	541	10.69	217	4.29
1925-29	364	6.49	555	9.90	590	10.53	257	4.59
1930-34	297	5.14	653	11.29	806	13.94	267	4.52
Year								
1933	303	5.22	679	11.69	816	14.04	290	4.93
1934	281	4.82	651	11.16	956	16.38	260	4.46
1935	260	4.44	610	10.43	1,029	17.59	274	4.68
1936	235	4.00	740	12.60	1,101	18.74	252	4.29
1937	256	4.35	725	12.31	1,039	17.64	274	4.65

IX. DEATHS - AGES.

During 1937, 26 (40) persons died 95 years of age and over - males 9, females 17. One male and 2 females were 100 years of age, being 104, 105, and 101.

X. SUMMARY RETURN.

The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages and the rate per 1,000 of mean population, and the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births.

Period	Births		Marriages		DEATHS.			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
Year								
1933	8,900	15.32	3,973	6.84	4,904	8.44	286	32.14
1934	8,459	14.50	4,310	7.39	5,403	9.26	301	35.58
1935	8,270	14.14	4,845	8.28	5,163	8.83	289	34.95
1936	8,911	15.17	5,182	8.82	5,464	9.30	277	31.09
1937	8,985	15.25	5,340	9.06	5,247	8.91	297	33.05

XI. INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED TO BOARD OF HEALTH.

Decreases are noted for Measles 72 (88), Whooping Cough 684 (751), Scarlet Fever 214 (397), Diphtheria 774 (1,279), Typhoid Fever 27 (51), Puerperal Fever 58 (89).

Increases are recorded for Pulmonary Tuberculosis 331 (266), Poliomyelitis Anterior Acuta 85 (5), Bacillary Dysentery 19 (5).

Chicken Pox and Mumps - Not notifiable from 25.11.37.

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